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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Radio in Rumania

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1. Rumanians were not allowed to listen to non-Soviet broadcasts; if they did, it was done clandestinely. All radio owners were required to register their radio sets with the militia and pay a monthly tax (I do not recall the amount). Soviet-manufactured Pioneer (Pioneer) radios were the only ones available in Rumania, and they were of extremely poor quality, usually lasting no longer than a year. Only a few pre-World War II high frequency radio sets remained on the market; none were imported.
2. The state guaranteed that for one year the state store which had sold the Pioneer radios must make all repairs. Parts used in these repairs were probably of Soviet manufacture. Condensers and coils (make unknown) were being manufactured in Rumania; with the exception of these, only a few older, Rumanian-manufactured parts could still be found. If one needed replacements for a radio other than the Pioneer, American and German parts were obtainable on the black market; however, these parts were old and extremely expensive.
3. Each ocean-going vessel carried a short wave set (name unknown) for international communication, in addition to the set (name unknown) used to communicate with Sovromtrans stations. The radio set [redacted] was manufactured in the USSR but the component parts were manufactured in the US in 1945. I never saw parts of Czech, Hungarian, or Soviet manufacture used in such sets.
4. Each government agency had its own communications center in Bucharest. This decentralization was necessary because the Ministry of Communications exercised only civilian functions, and was not allowed to interfere with the communications systems of the military or security police.

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5. I do not know whether radios or loudspeakers were being produced in Rumania [redacted] there were none produced before the Communists assumed control. Loudspeakers, however, have been installed in the streets, public places, institutions, shops and factories of all cities.

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